

# Update...

September 2020

Looking out the window one would be hard pressed to think that Spring is here, but the calendar says it is, and the plants seem to agree, with some species bursting into life, including the magnificent king protea. Hopefully things will soon warm up and we can all enjoy the hiking trails and picnic spots once more.



I know we have just recently published an *Update* but we wanted to inform you about an initiative started by Jannie and Ronel Otto who recently moved to Westford Bridge. As you may know they are very involved in wildlife management, owning a game farm, as well as running a “safari” travel business and operating certain professional hunting concessions.

They jumped at the idea of assisting us in establishing a pattern of behaviour of our own wildlife on WB, starting with a mini census of what lives here, noting their movements, where (and if) they enter/leave the estate etc. and to this end they have started gathering data to share with us, which we will distribute on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. You will find their first report annexed hereto, which is fascinating. They encourage all HO's to participate in this by sending pics or info on sightings of

particular note that you may come across in your rambles on the reserve (and in and around the residential area as well).

As they are away quite frequently it would be best to send your info to our new WBPVRT email address, which has been established specifically for communications regarding the nature reserve, which is [wbpvrt5@gmail.com](mailto:wbpvrt5@gmail.com). Jen will coordinate your inputs and forward them to Jannie and Ronel accordingly.

We are most grateful for the enthusiasm with which they have embraced our environment and look forward to their future submissions.

## MAINTENANCE TEAM

With the start of the new financial year we have changed the scheduled maintenance plan by PGS from a bi-monthly operation with a team of five to a weekly one (Tuesdays) with two operators, with the option for periodic ad-hoc additions as needs dictate. With the new growing season upon us this will offer a better opportunity to keep the trails clear, which becomes a challenge when managed on a fortnightly basis.

Rodderick and team will still be involved on an ad-hoc basis for alien clearing, road maintenance etc. as and when scheduled.

## OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

So as to better manage info regarding all aspects of the nature reserve we decided to establish an address that is exclusive to WBPVRT for all matters, whether to report on game sightings, fallen trees, trails needing attention or whatever, so in future please direct all nature reserve communications to [wbpvrt5@gmail.com](mailto:wbpvrt5@gmail.com). In that way we can ensure that your requests are attended to promptly.

*So, get out there and enjoy...*



August 2020

| DATE | TIME    | WHERE TRIAL     | SPECIE                   | SEX       | SPOOR | DROPPINGS | SIGHTING | OTHER    | INFO BY    | PHOTO  |
|------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|--|
| 7    | morning | leopard         | caracal                  |           | x     |           |          |          | Jannie     |   |
| 7    | morning | leopard         | bushbuck                 |           | x     | x         |          |          | Jannie     |   |
| 7    | morning | leopard         | genet                    |           | x     |           |          |          | Jannie     |  |
| 7    | morning | forest          | Porcupine                |           |       | x         |          |          | Jannie     |  |
| 1    | morning | forest          | Bird kill (cattle egret) |           |       |           |          | feathers | Jannie     |   |
| 8    | 16h10   |                 | boomslang                |           |       |           | x        |          | Lindy      |  |
| 14   | morning | forest          | Bushbuck                 | Ram & Ewe | x     | x         |          |          | Jannie     |   |
| 14   | Morning | forest          | Caracal                  |           |       | x         |          |          | Jannie     |   |
| 14   | Morning | forest          | bushpig                  |           | x     | x         |          |          | Jannie     |  |
| 14   | Morning | forest          | Porcupine                |           |       | x         |          |          | Jannie     |  |
| 16   | 13h16   | Phantom Pass Rd | Caracal                  |           |       |           | x        |          | Gill Green |  |